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**UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY**  
**REGION III - OFFICE OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS**  
841 Chestnut Building Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19107-4431  
Phone - 215/566-5120 Fax - 215/566-5102

To: Bob S

322-4972

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## EPA Environmental News

Contact: Ruth Podems (215) 814-5540

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### Mid-Atlantic Hazardous Waste Sites Added to Superfund National Priorities List

**PHILADELPHIA** - The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency today proposed the addition of three new mid-Atlantic hazardous waste sites to the National Priorities List (NPL) and finalized the addition of three previously proposed mid-Atlantic sites.

The newly proposed NPL sites are: Andrews Air Force Base (Camp Springs, Prince George's County, Md.), Brandywine Defense Reutilization and Marketing Office (Brandywine, Prince George's County, Md.), and Little Creek Naval Amphibious Base (Virginia Beach, Va.). The final NPL sites are: Fort George G. Meade (Odenton, Anne Arundel County, Md.), the Washington Navy Yard (Washington, D.C.), and Sharon Steel Corporation - Farrell Works Disposal Area (Hickory Township, Mercer County, Pa.).

Once a site has been proposed for the NPL, there is a 60-day public comment period. The proposed listing becomes final once the EPA has responded to all the public comments in writing. The 60-day public comment period on the three newly proposed sites starts Monday, July 27, 1998, when the notice will appear in the Federal Register.

Sites placed on the NPL are eligible for long-term cleanup support by the agency. With the three new proposed sites, EPA Region III (the mid-Atlantic region) has now proposed a total of 200 sites to the NPL since its inception in 1982. Of these 200 sites, 183 have actually been listed on the NPL, and 20 of these have been deleted following successful cleanup.

Andrews Air Force Base is an active U.S. Department of Defense facility, serving as the headquarters of the 89th Air Wing and supporting worldwide airlift support operations for the President and other high-ranking domestic and foreign dignitaries. Waste sources at the base include three landfills, two fire training areas, and a sludge disposal area. Hazardous substances such as lead and semi-volatile organic compounds have been released into Piscataway Creek, which contains fisheries and wetlands.

Brandywine Defense Reutilization and Marketing Office is an inactive Defense facility which was used as a storage yard for hazardous wastes and other materials. Hazardous substances  
(more)



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have been released to groundwater and to surface water, including a wetland area located adjacent to the site. Contaminants of concern include volatile and semi-volatile organic compounds, and polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs).

Little Creek Naval Amphibious Base is an active naval facility which provides on-base logistic facilities and support services to local commands, organizations, other United States and allied units, homeported ships, and commands of the operating forces to meet the amphibious training requirements of the armed forces of the United States. Waste sources at the facility include three landfills and a surface impoundment. Hazardous substances such as metals, volatile organic compounds, and PCBs have been released to surface water bodies which lead into Chesapeake Bay.

Fort George G. Meade provides a wide range of support to 78 tenant organizations from all four services and to several federal agencies. Waste sources include two landfills, a storage yard, and a laundry facility. Groundwater has been contaminated with volatile and semi-volatile compounds and pesticides, while the Little Patuxent River has been contaminated with volatile organic compounds, pesticides, and PCBs.

The Washington Navy Yard is the oldest continuously operated Navy facility in the United States. It has been used for shipbuilding and repair, ordnance production, research and other industrial activities. It is currently used for administration, supply and storage, and training. The stormwater system draining the facility is contaminated with metals and PCBs due to naval operations and ordnance production. The stormwater system leads to nine outfalls into the Anacostia River, which is also contaminated with metals and PCBs. The adjacent area now known as the Southeast Federal Center was originally part of the Navy Yard, but the General Services Administration later purchased the property and EPA is evaluating it as a separate site.

Sharon Steel Corporation - Farrell Works Disposal Area consists of several waste disposal locations across the Shenango River from the former Sharon Steel Corporation manufacturing plant. The disposal area, originally an undisturbed grassland and a flood plain of the Shenango River, was used to store and dispose of various slags, acids and other wastes. Soils, ground water, surface water, and sediments are contaminated with various metals. The slag disposal area, which is unrestricted, presents a public health hazard to site trespassers. The former steel manufacturing plant is not currently being considered part of the NPL site because the current owner, Caparo Steel Company, is addressing it separately under state oversight.

The Superfund trust fund was established in 1980 to finance hazardous waste cleanups with taxes generated from chemical and waste producing industries. Congress has not yet reauthorized the Superfund law, and the fund currently relies on its strong enforcement arm to seek reimbursement from companies that generate hazardous waste. At Andrews Air Force Base, Brandywine DRMO, Little Creek Naval Amphibious Base, Fort George G. Meade, and Washington Navy Yard, the Department of Defense will finance the necessary investigations and cleanups. EPA will use the Superfund to independently evaluate Defense work at these sites. At Sharon Steel Corporation - Farrell Works Disposal Area, due to the bankruptcy of the site owner, EPA will fund the investigations and cleanup using the Superfund trust fund.

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